

Message Text

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43

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00

/014 W

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R 081051Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1321

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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NEA FOR DEPUTY ASST SECY SOBER FROM AMBASSADOR

DEPT ALSO FOR NEA/ARP AND SCA/VO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, US, QA

SUBJ: A-2 VISAS FOR ARABIAN PENINSULA STUDENTS: QATAR

REF: DOHA 0202, STATE 54058

1. YOU ARE AWARE OF THE VEXING PROBLEM THAT THE A-2 VISA QUESTION HAS BEEN TO THIS POST. THE GOQ'S ACCUSATIONS OF DISCRIMINATION ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY SHRILL, AND THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAS TOLD ME THAT THEY MUST NOW CONSIDER ESCALATING THE PROBLEM TO THE LEVEL OF THE AMIR. THIS WOULD INDEED BE REGRETABLE, SINCE I DON'T THINK WE HAVE A SATISFACTORY ANSWER TO THE ALLEGATIONS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST QATARI STUDENTS AS LONG AS THEIR SAUDI AND KUWAITI COUNTERPARTS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE A-2 VISAS WHILE WE DENY A-2S TO QATARIS. IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF THIS PROBLEM CAUSED GOQ TO RETHINK ITS POLICY OF EDUCATING ITS MOST PROMISING STUDENTS IN THE US.

2. I REALIZE THAT A GREAT EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM AND EQUALIZE THE VISA TREATMENT OF ALL PENINSULA
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STUDENTS, BUT THE LATEST WORD FROM THE DEPT IS THAT A-2S

ARE EXPECTED TO BE CUT OFF FOR ALL "SOMETIME THIS YEAR" (STATE REFTEL). WE NEED MORE DEFINITIVE ACTION TO GET THE QATARIS OFF OUR BACK. IF I COULD TELL THE GOQ THAT A-2S WOULD BE DISCONTINUED FOR ALL WITHIN A MONTH, I THINK THIS WOULD DO THE TRICK, BUT ANY FURTHER DELAY COULD BE MOST TROUBLESOME.

3. IS IT NOT POSSIBLE TO TERMINATE A-2S FOR SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS ADMINISTRATIVELY AS WAS DONE WITH QATARIS OVER A YEAR AGO? I APPRECIATE THAT FLAK FROM SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS COULD BE HEAVY, BUT PERHAPS THIS WOULD HELP CATALYZE OVERALL SOLUTION. ALTERNATIVELY, I WOULD ASK AGAIN THAT WE BE PERMITTED TO RESUME ISSUING A-2S TO QATARIS IF IT APPEARS THERE WILL BE A LONG DELAY BEFORE WE CAN COME UP WITH A SOLUTION THAT TREATS ALL PENINSULA STUDENTS EQUALLY.
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